

Please replace the third complete paragraph beginning on page 7, lines 18 and 19, with the following written paragraph:

--Fig. 1A-1E show the steps of the method of permanently compressing lumber of the present invention;

Fig. 2A-2C show the steps of the method of permanently compressing lumber;

Fig. 3 is an ordinary graph of compressibility of lumber;

Fig. 4 is an explanation view showing a relationship between heating time and flexural rigidity of lumber;

Fig. 5 is an explanation view showing a steam curve in a heating step;

Fig. 6 is a graph showing results of a boiling test of a wooden plate which is formed by compressing and heating lumber damaged by pine bark and wood borers;

Fig. 7 is a graph showing results of flexural test of the wooden plate which is formed by compressing and heating lumber damaged by pine bark and wood borers;

Fig. 8 is a graph showing a relationship between heating time and form-recovery rate of a wooden plate which is cut from an edge portion of white birch lumber; and

Fig. 9 is a graph showing a relationship between heating time and the form-recovery rate of a wooden plate which is cut from a core portion of cypress lumber.--

Please replace the first complete paragraph beginning on page 8, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- An embodiment of the method of permanently compressing lumber of the present invention will be explained with reference to Figs. 1A-1E and 2A-2C. In Fig. 1 and 2, air-dried lumber 10 shown in Fig. 1A is employed as lumber. Percentage of water content of the air-dried lumber 10 is 12 % or less, preferably 5 % or more.--